

ROYAUME DU MAROC, MINISTERE DES
AFFAIRES ETRANGERES ET DE LA
COOPERATION,

Congressman FRANK R. WOLF,
Washington, DC.

HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE, His Majesty King Mohammed VI acknowledges receipt of your letter regarding the repatriation measures taken against American citizens by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco.

In answer to your request, I have been instructed by His Majesty the King, Commander of the Faithful, to share with you certain remarks and clarifications in the hope they may alleviate your concerns regarding this issue.

Firstly, I would like to assure you that the Kingdom of Morocco attaches great importance to its historic ties of friendship with the United States of America, with which it shares a unique and longstanding relationship which His Majesty the King seeks to preserve and deepen in all areas of exchange and cooperation.

The values of freedom, democracy and tolerance which brought us together in the past are still, today, the solid foundation on which we have erected an exemplary bilateral partnership characterized in particular, by an open, honest and candid dialogue. It is precisely this dialogue, pursued at all levels of society, which has always allowed us to bridge any temporal divides which may come between us by working, together, past them on the basis of our shared values and enduring interests.

In this spirit, I would like to expose to you my country's perspective regarding the issue presently at hand:

The repatriation measures which concerned, amongst others, a number of American citizens, solely and exclusively targeted proselytism activities which are clearly and categorically forbidden by both the precepts of Islam and Moroccan legislation, equally vouched for by His Majesty the King as Commander of the Faithful and Head of State.

The repatriation measures were not taken against the concerned parties in relation to their Christian faith, but because they had committed criminal offences, as proven by an investigation conducted by the relevant legal authority, namely the Crown Prosecution Office, following formal complaints, namely by parents and close relatives of the children concerned.

These measures should, thus, be construed as logical, legal and legitimate decisions resulting from a thorough investigation which established, on the basis of verifiable and substantial evidence that foreign nationals, under the pretence of conducting charitable actions, had engaged in proselytizing.

Under such circumstances, Moroccan authorities were obligated to fulfill their responsibilities by duly enforcing the Law, in full respect of the rights and dignity of the concerned parties.

Indeed, the choice of an administrative procedure of repatriation—as provided for by national legislation—instead of a legal procedure, was made to spare concerned parties the unavoidable ordeal which would result from a trial, no matter how fair it may be. In addition, were the concerned parties to feel they had been unjustly treated, Moroccan law provides them with the right to petition for nullity of the measures taken against them if these are found to be an abuse of power.

Moroccan Islam, founded upon values of openness, tolerance and moderation, is the fruit of long years of peaceful coexistence between the varied and rich strata of Moroccan society. It constitutes a central pillar upholding Moroccan society which needs to be preserved against any undermining or perversions.

Whenever this serene Islam has been targeted by proselytizing or heretical activities, Moroccan authorities were obliged to act, in all legality, to protect the faith of Moroccan society.

On this basis, it should be noted that repatriation procedures were regularly undertaken, these past years, against some of "our brothers in Islam" both from Shiite or Wahhabi rites. In all these cases, the same type of administrative procedure was followed.

Therefore, taking into account all these considerations, there can be no mistake about the intent and attitude of the Moroccan authorities in this issue. I can assure you that in no way whatsoever are these isolated cases in breach freedom of worship, which is guaranteed by the Moroccan Constitution. Nor can they be perceived as having any political or religious connotations.

The Kingdom of Morocco has always been a land of dialogue and exchange, as well as a crossroads where different civilizations, cultures and religions can meet. His Majesty the King, Commander of the Faithful, warrants the exercise of this freedom across the Moroccan territory as a whole and in an equal manner, for Muslims, Jews and Christians of all persuasions.

While remaining at your disposal should you wish any further explanations, please accept the assurances of my highest regards,

Yours Sincerely,

TAIB FASSI FIHRI,
Le ministre.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1381), as amended by Public Law 111-114, the Chair announces on behalf of the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives and the majority and minority leaders of the United States Senate their joint reappointment of the following individuals on May 13, 2010, each to a 5-year term on the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance:

Roberta L. Holzwarth, Illinois;
Barbara L. Camens, Washington,
D.C., Chair.

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I am claiming the time on behalf of the Progressive Caucus, which is that body within the Congress itself, that group of people who are dedicated to the ideals that have made America fairer, America more open, America more inclusive, and America more peaceful over the years. The Progressive Caucus, who believes that working people of America deserve fair wages, workers' rights, and things like that; who believe that our country should be at peace with the rest of the world, and who believe in diplomacy and who believe in talking it out and who believe

war is rarely a good idea, and when it is, it should be executed with the most amount of care for our soldiers and our veterans, and who believe diplomacy is almost always the right answer.

The Progressive Caucus, who believe immigration reform should be humane and that we should put ideas of family reunification and a path towards citizenship up front. The Progressive Caucus, which believes that during this time of financial fragility and uncertainty that we need a robust, strong reform bill that will hold Wall Street accountable so that the money of the American people is cared for in a safe and proper way. This is the Progressive Caucus, and this is the progressive message where the Progressive Caucus comes to the House floor to talk about issues of and concern to the American people, to explain the position of the Progressive Caucus to the American people and to talk about things that really matter and to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that the American people know that there is a progressive voice in Congress. That voice is the Progressive Caucus, and this is the progressive message.

Mr. Speaker, today the topic for the progressive message is Wall Street reform and jobs. Wall Street reform and jobs. A lot of people think about this Wall Street reform package that is moving its way through Congress and they think, You know what? I know this has a lot to do with me, but I am not exactly sure what. People know it was tax money that was pulled together during September and October of 2008, and that the Troubled Asset Recovery program was pulled together and salvaged some American banks to stop the whole system from going down. The American people know that. It was unpopular, nobody wanted to do it, but people knew it had to do with them and their tax money. The American people also know it had something to do with credit-default swaps and it had something to do with mortgage-backed securities; but the fact is, Mr. Speaker, this stuff is a little confusing and it makes a lot of sense for us to talk about it. But it makes sense to talk about it from the standpoint of jobs and businesses, particularly small businesses, and it makes sense to talk about it from the point of view of the consumer. So we will be talking about that today over the course of the next hour.

But before we do, I want to dive into a few things about jobs, about the state of our economy. The fact is that it is good news that we have seen some positive job news. On May 7, just a few days ago, the Department of Labor reported that 290,000 jobs were created in April. This is a good thing, but I am quite certain if you look around the neighborhoods and the farms and the rural communities and the urban centers and in the suburbs of the United States, there are still a lot of people not working. Positive job growth, yes, because the Democratic Caucus, led by a progressive voice, helped to make that